Babri Masjid, Ayodhya Temple and Godhra riots in textbooks

801. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT is going to introduce the chapters on Babri Masjid, Ayodhya Temple and the Godhra riots in school textbooks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) NCERT will introduce new textbooks for classes, I, III, VI, IX and XI during 2006-07. There will be no chapters on Babri Masjid, Ayodhya Temple and the Godhra riots in these textbooks.

Neglect of General Broadcast Code

†802. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of neglecting the general broadcast code by TV channels in the country have come to light from time to time;

(b) if so, whether it is necessary that clear and accurate guidelines should be fixed for these TV channels so that the incidents of distorting the culture, civilization and tradition can be checked under these guidelines; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of future action of Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been cases in past where there have been violation of Programme and Advertising Codes by private TV channels. In the last one year 32 show cause notices have been issued to various TV channels for violation of the Codes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) In the light of the experience of implementing the existing Programme and Advertising Code, the Government has constituted a Committee on 03.10.2005 for reviewing the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. This Committee consists of representatives from film industry, music industry, broadcasting industry, concerned NGOs, experts and other stakeholders. Only the terms of reference of the Committee *inter alia* is to revise and harmonise the CBFC guidelines and Cable Television Programme/Advertising Codes and AIR Code in accordance with contemporary community standards and the laws in force.

Revenue collected by DD from TV serials

803. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue collected by Doordarshan from various serials is abysmally low as compared to serials telecast on private channels;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to litigation with well-known producers, quality programmes on Doordarshan are not being telecast; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to allow those producers who have produced quality programmes in 90s?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati cannot be compared with other private channels. Prasar Bharati is a public service broadcaster not motivated solely by commercial considerations. However, the revenue earned by Doordarshan during 2005-06 (upto 31-01-2006) is Rs. 585.74 crores as compared to Rs. 665.27 crores in 2004-05 and Rs. 530.23 crores in 2003-04.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Doordarshan has informed that any litigation with well-known producers, who owe outstanding dues towards Doordarshan, has not affected the quality of programmes telecast by them. Doordarshan considers their proposals again after their repayment plan of outstanding dues is approved.